

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1162

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13755

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR WB GW GE US UK FR UR

SUBJECT: GDR OBSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT TO BERLIN

REF: BONN 13682

1. IN EXPECTATION THAT CAPITALS WILL APPROVE DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS, AS RECOMMENDED REFTTEL, AUGUST 17 BONN GROUP MEETING REACHED AD REF AGREEMENT ON A DRAFT TEXT FOR PROTEST CONCERNING AUGUST 13 TRANSIT ROUTE OBSTRUCTION.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY MY GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

A. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE THREE POWERS HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT ON AUGUST 13 GDR OFFICIALS REFUSED OR DELAYED PASSAGE TO BERLIN ON THE TRANSIT WAYS TO NUMEROUS CIVILIAN PERSONS. IN MANY INSTANCES, TRAVELERS WERE
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QUESTIONED AS TO WHY THEY WISHED TO VISIT BERLIN. IT

IS OBVIOUS THAT THESE ACTIONS BY THE GDR AUTHORITIES
WERE MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO PREVENT TRAVELERS FROM
PARTICIPATING IN POLITICAL
ACTIVITIES IN THE WSB.

B. IN THE QA OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1971, THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR DECLARED THAT THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC
OF CIVILIAN PERSONS AND GOODS BETWEEN THE WSB AND THE
FRG WOULD BE UNIMPEDED. ONLY IN LIMITED AND CLEARLY
DEFINED CIRCUMSTANCES, RELATING TO SUSPECTED MISUSE OF
THE TRANSIT ROUTES THEMSELVES, DOES THE QA PERMIT
THE REFUSAL OF USE OF THESE ROUTES. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES
DID NOT OBTAIN ON AUGUST 13. NEITHER EVENTS
TAKING PLACE IN THE WSB NOR TRAVELERS' REASONS FOR
VISITING THE CITY CAN JUSTIFY IMPEDING TRANSIT. THE
OBSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC WHICH OCCURED ON
AUGUST 13 CONSTITUTED A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE QA.

C. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SOVIET
GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT SUCH VIOLATIONS DO NOT OCCUR.
THE THREE POWERS CALL ON THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO SEE TO
IT THAT TRANSIT TRAFFIC OF CIVILIAN PERSONS AND GOODS
BETWEEN THE WSB AND FRG FUNCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
QA AND THUS REMAIN UNIMPEDED.

D. I HAVE ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE
SOVIET GOVERNMENT THAT, FOR ITS PART, THE (BLANK)
GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL NECESSARY TO ENSURE
THE STRICT OBSERVANCE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QA
AND TO PREVENT COMPLICATIONS FROM ARISING IN AND
AROUND BERLIN.

END TEXT.

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3. AT BEGINNING OF MEETING, FRG REP (HENZE) SAID GDR HAD AGREED TO FRG PROPOSED MEETING OF TRANSIT COMMISSION (TC) TO CONSIDER LAST FRIDAY'S EVENTS. MEETING WILL OCCUR ON AUGUST 18 AT 11:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME IN EAST BERLIN.

4. BONN GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN IN MORNING OF AUGUST 19 TO HEAR REPORT OF TC MEETING AND CONSIDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS ON RECOMMENDED ALLIED PROTEST.

5. AS REPORTED REFTEL, BONN GROUP RECOMMENDATION FOR A DEMARCHE INCLUDED ASSUMPTION THAT IT WOULD BE DELIVERED BY ALLIED EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW, AS IN CASE OF 1974 FEA PROTEST. ASSUMING OTHER THREE OBTAIN APPROVAL OF THAT IDEA, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO REOPEN THE QUESTION. IF, HOWEVER, THERE IS FURTHER DISCUSSION OF WHERE OR AT WHAT LEVEL PROTEST IS TO BE MADE, WE WOULD FAVOR URGING
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THAT IT BE HANDED TO SOVIET AMBASSADORS IN CAPITALS. SOVIETS USED ANALOGOUS PROCEDURE BY CALLING IN ALLIED AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW TO DELIVER RECENT PROTEST ON PARTICIPATION OF BERLINERS IN DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EC, AND THERE WOULD BE MERIT IN OUR FOLLOWING SUIT TO UNDERSCORE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW AUGUST 13 INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS. PARIS, ON OTHER HAND, MAY WISH TO KEEP DEMARCHE AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL, AND FRENCH COULD ARGUE FOR USE OF POLAD CHANNEL IN BERLIN. WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS GIVING US FLEXIBILITY TO REACH EARLY CONSENSUS ON MODALITIES, BUT WITH INDICATION OF DEPARTMENT'S PREFERENCE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) EMBASSY RECOMMENDS APPROVAL
OF TEXT SUBJECT TO ANY UPDATING WHICH MIGHT BE
REQUIRED BY RESULTS OF FRG/GDR TRANSIT COMMISSION
MEETING. (B) REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON MODALITIES
FOR DELIVERY IF APPROVED.
HILLENBRAND

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